

20 file

17 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DULLES

SUBJECT: Comments on 15 April 1954 Draft of Speech to Governors

Page 1, fifth to last line - Should be February not March.

Page 6, bottom line - Though the Russian standard of living probably deteriorated in the first three 5-year plans, it increased at about 2% per year during the fourth (1946-1950). This, of course, was only about one-fourth of the gain of the Economy as a whole.

Page 9, top three sentences - They are entirely too strong. The program may well fail but it is not certain to fail and could conceivably be spectacularly successful if the Soviets apply the teachings of recent agro-chemistry. This was the solemn conviction of the O/RR Consultants who recently examined the Agricultural Branch.

Page 10, paragraph 4d, fourth line - Strike almost insuperable, insert very difficult.

Page 17 - A sentence should be added approximately as follows:

We are also noting with interest a rise in the importance of the Army as witnessed by return to prominence of Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Konev's presiding role at the trial of Beria.

Page 20, bottom - I would strike the last paragraph because I think there is increasing evidence that 1956 was only an interim target date for planning and was not intended to be the terminal date of the new policy. The first draft of the forthcoming 5-year estimate states as follows:

"The chances are about even that the Soviet leaders will maintain their present policies roughly unchanged through 1959, but in 1958 and 1959 the USSR will be ready to increase the aggressiveness of its foreign policy and the pressure of its military strength upon any signs of major dissension or weakness among the US and its allies."

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ROBERT AMORY, Jr.

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